

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A method of screening a test compound for its ability to induce cytochrome P-450 3A4 (CYP3A4 gene expression comprising

i) contacting said test compound with a protein comprised of a ligand binding domain of human pregnane X receptor (hPXR) having the amino acid sequence 141-434 of SEQ ID NO:14, wherein the protein shares at least 96% amino acid sequence identity with the ligand binding domain of SEQ ID NO:14 and retains the sequence's ligand-binding function,

ii) determining whether said test compound selectively binds to the ligand binding domain of said protein; and

iii) determining whether a test compound that selectively binds to the ligand binding domain of said protein induces receptor binding to a response element in the CYP3A4 gene promoter and expression of a cytochrome P-450 3A4 monooxygenase enzyme.

11.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the method is an in vitro assay.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein the protein shares at least 97% amino acid sequence identity with the ligand binding domain of SEQ ID NO: 14 and retains the sequence's ligand-binding function.

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